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Letters

Government abuse of American Indians

While it is certainly worthwhile to document past governmental abuses of power, as Frank Donner did in "What the FBI Did to William Albertson" (*CLR*, April/May), it is imperative to expose and oppose current governmental practices, including not only frameups like William Albertson's but actual physical attacks, murders, and illegal domestic use of military force.

The current media coverage of illegal intelligence community activities has failed to report adequately the ongoing program of the CIA and FBI to disrupt and destroy the organizing work of progressive Native Ameri-

can people. The 1975 Rockefeller Commission Report on the CIA lists the American Indian Movement as #5 on the CIA list of over one thousand targets for its illegal domestic "OPERATION CHAOS." The 1973 occupation of Wounded Knee was used by the government as a trial run to employ U.S. military counter-insurgency techniques against domestic groups, in violation of federal law.

The FBI continues to participate with a vengeance in the criminal prosecution of Native American leaders. Its tactics include illegal wiretaps, warrantless searches, falsified reports, destruction of evidence, perjury, and the use of infiltrators and provocateurs. Yet in spite of this concerted government assault, over 90% of the charges against hundreds of Native Americans at Wounded Knee ended in dismissals or acquittals.

I urge greater coverage of abuse of government power against Native people, and urge your readers to help provide financial support for legal defense efforts by sending their contributions to "Wounded Knee Support Committee," 1263 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, California 94025.

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